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MEMORIALS

CONCERNING

ANNA M. THORNE AND SARAH M. UPTON,

DECEASED;

OF THE

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS,

WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE YEARLY MEETING OF NEW-YORK,

WITH SOME OF

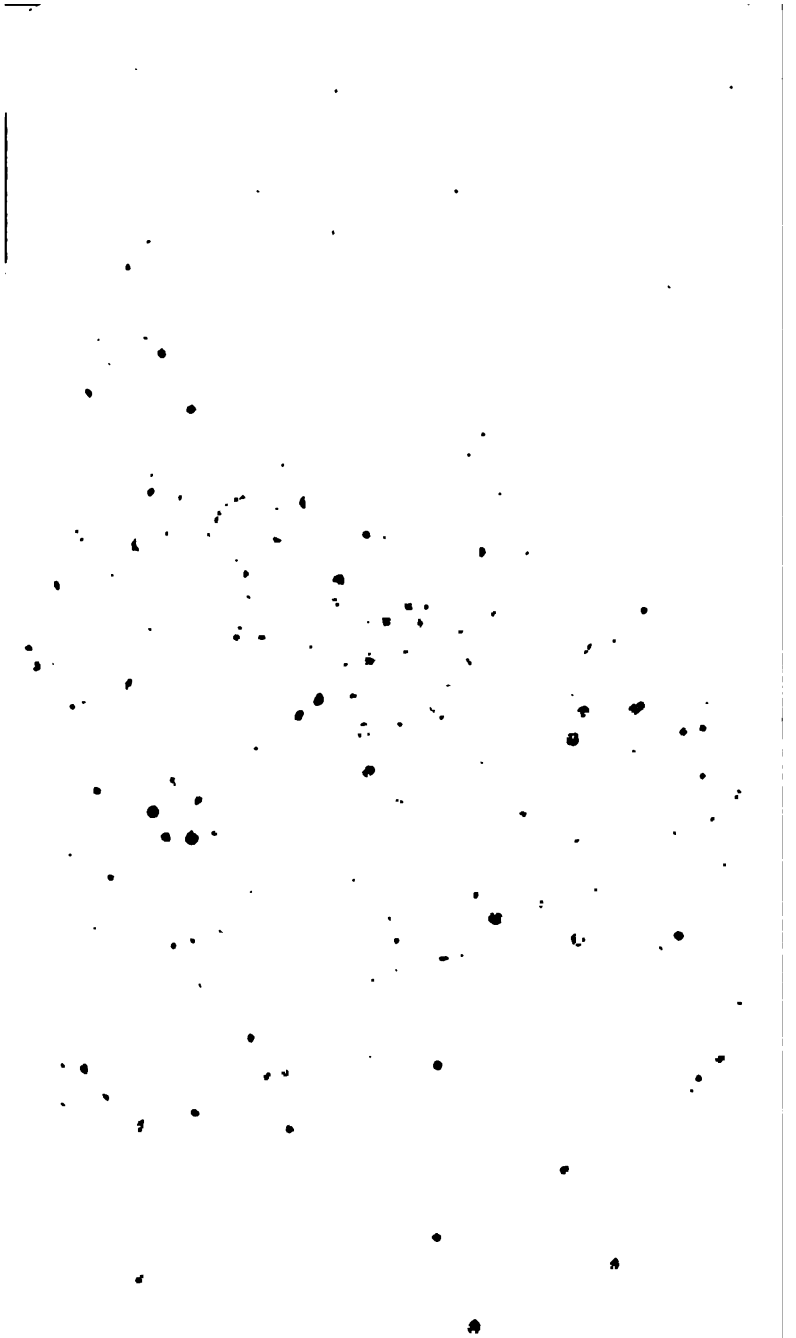
THEIR LAST EXPRESSIONS.

NEW-YORK:

PRESS OF MAHLON DAY & CO., 374 PEARL-STREET.

JAMES EGBERT.....PRINTER.

1839.



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MEMORIALS.

The Testimony of Nine-Partners Monthly Meeting of Friends, concerning our beloved Friend, ANNA M. THORNE, *deceased.*

SHE was the daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Moore, who were valuable members of our religious society, and born 4th of 1st Month, 1766. Though we have nothing very remarkable to record of her early religious exercises, yet she often observed in her riper years, that when but a child, she was made sensible of her Heavenly Father's love, by the influence of His holy spirit upon her mind; and that, by the illuminating power of the light of Christ, she was clearly shown that she should yield her heart, an early, and a willing sacrifice to Him who died that we might live.

Being the eldest of a numerous family, she was, to her brothers and sisters, an

example of obedience to parental authority, rendering much assistance in the care and education of them. At the age of twenty-two, she was united in marriage with Consider Merrit, a worthy and exemplary Friend, with whom she lived about eight years;—when in the inscrutable wisdom of an unerring Providence, they were separated by his death, and she was made feelingly to realize the uncertainty of earth's fondest hopes.

She had, previously to this event, appeared a few times in the ministry, and this very trying dispensation undoubtedly tended to deepen her religious experience, by fixing her affections more strongly on Heaven and Heavenly things, and weaning them from the fading enjoyments of a changing world. And as she kept the eye of her mind steadily fixed upon the pointings of Divine Truth, she found it to be her duty more frequently to stand forth in the public vindication of that cause which is "dignified by immortality, and crowned with eternal life." Her communications, springing from the source of all true ministry, were

acknowledged by the spiritually minded to be in the life of the Gospel; and the Society bore its testimony to the Divine authenticity of her gift.

Being faithful in the discharge of her domestic duties, she devoted much of her time, for several years after the death of her husband, to the superintending care of her family, and endeavored to lead her tender offspring in the paths of piety and peace.

At the age of forty-four, she was again joined in marriage with our esteemed Friend Isaac Thorne, to whom she was, not only a tender and affectionate wife, but a true yoke-fellow in the Gospel. From this time to the close of her long and useful life, she continued in the path of duty, stedfastly supporting the doctrines of that Gospel she most firmly believed in, and by the power of which she had experienced a new birth, and a resurrection from dead works to the service of the living God. She travelled extensively in the exercise of her excellent gift, not only within the limits of this Yearly-Meeting, but those of New-England,

Philadelphia, and Baltimore; and being of a social and cheerful disposition, she seemed peculiarly fitted to visit the stranger. Her ministry was sound and weighty, and being careful to attend strictly to her Heavenly Guide, a sweet savor of life rested upon her services.

A few years before her death, she made a visit, in Gospel love, to Friends in Great Britain and Ireland, much to the satisfaction of her own mind, and, we believe, to the comfort and edification of the Churches in those countries.

During her last sickness, which was, at times, extremely distressing, she was favored with great resignation to the Divine will; and some of her expressions, which were committed to writing, are here inserted; clearly showing, that the religion of our Lord Jesus Christ, not only destroys the fear of death, but gives a full assurance, and a blessed foretaste of immortal happiness.

After a fainting fit, she remained in a very feeble state for about forty-eight hours, during which time, (as she afterwards said,)

she had a constant feeling of deathly faintness. When she revived, she said,—"My mind, for two days and nights has been so wonderfully gathered from the world, and swallowed up in the goodness of my Heavenly Father, that it really seemed to me, sometimes, that I hardly knew whether I was in the body or out of it. O! the sweet peace that attends me! All is settled in quiet,—all is peaceful,—nothing stands in my way to that sweet kingdom of peace. I sometimes wonder, that all men should not be willing to do right, it affords such sweet peace: surely the world cannot give it; neither can it take it from me."

"O! how good my Heavenly Father is to me! He has borne up my head through many deep trials. He does not forsake me now."

"I remember Him who trod the wine-press alone. He was crowned with a crown of thorns, spit upon and buffetted, and suffered for me. O! what are my light afflictions to his sufferings!"

To her husband, she said,—"I want thee to tell all my dear friends every where, as

way opens for it, how happy I am. All is peaceful,—all is quiet. My dear love flows to all the human family."

She often spoke very affectionately of her dear friends in England and Ireland, and on a particular occasion, in relation to them, and her visit amongst them, she expressed herself as follows,—"They are very near my heart. O! the love I felt to flow to them when I was with them! It was wonderful to me, that I was so strengthened in body and mind.—I was raised from a low and feeble state of health before I left my home, restored on my passage, and when I arrived in England, I was able to travel and attend meetings. It was not for my sake only that it was so; but I now believe that my Heavenly Father intended it for an encouragement to others, by showing what his wonder-working power can do for his little depending ones. I, a poor weak instrument, was strengthened to keep constantly travelling, and attending meetings. I ascribe all to the Lord's power, and now feel the sweet reward of peace for my service. O! I would not have it undone for all the world, were it at

my command!" And, addressing herself to her husband, she added: "Dont forget them when I am gone; but bear them in remembrance, and write to them as way opens, and give them my dear love."

Her friends feeling anxious to do all they could for her relief, she said to them,—"If it will be any satisfaction to you, for me to take medicino, I am willing to do so; but, unless the Lord keep the city the watchman waketh but in vain; and unless the Lord build up the poor tabernacle, they will labor in vain who attempt it."

She very feelingly said,—"It is far the greatest desire that I have for my children and grandchildren, that they may seek, first the Kingdom of Heaven and the righteousness thereof; then all things necessary will be added."

Two neighboring Friends, to whom she was much attached, coming in to see her at a time when she was attended with faintness and unable to converse much, sat with her a while in silence; when she said: "There is a feeling that is beyond the expression of words." Soon after, in reference to their

silent sitting, she added: "I then saw that my work was done. O! if I had strength of body, how I could speak of the goodness of my Heavenly Father!"

To some who had departed from the Society in the late separation, and who visited her in her sickness, she thus spoke: "When I look back ten years and reflect upon what has taken place in our Society, I have great peace of mind in the part I have taken, though it cost me much suffering. I loved many that went out from us, and sometimes when I have gone to our meetings, my mind has been so much with you, with desires that you might be gathered back, that I hardly knew how to give it up; but I can now tell you, that I have great peace of mind, and an evidence that I have not been following cunningly devised fables, but the pure, living and eternal substance."

A day or two before her close, she seemed to enjoy her friends in pleasant conversation, in which she took a part with a mind apparently free, and with that cheerfulness for which she was always remark-

able. It being observed that she very much enjoyed the company and conversation of her friends, she replied: "Why should I not. When I look forward, I have nothing to do. I have done my work in the day-time, and am now waiting until my Heavenly Father is pleased to take me to himself. It is not of myself, but of his goodness, that I am given to enjoy your company the little time I stay. I love to look out at the windows, and see the works of His holy hand. They all look pleasant and delightful to me."

She was much interested for young people in her gospel labors, and for those of this class who visited her during her illness, she manifested the most affectionate regard; assuring them that nothing but a strict attention to the dictates of the Holy Spirit, could give them comfort in life, or hope and confidence in the hour of death.

Her disease was dropsy; and, after a confinement of about five weeks, on sixth day morning, the 11th of 5th month, 1838, her purified spirit quietly departed from its tenement of clay, and, we have no doubt, joined

the angelic host in Heaven, in singing praises—eternal praises—to Him by whom she had been redeemed and made meet for the Kingdom of God and of his Christ.—And it may be truly said of this devoted servant, that she finished her course with joy, and the ministry which she had received of the Lord Jesus; having testified the gospel of the grace of God.

On the first-day following, her funeral was attended by a large concourse of people, who seemed deeply sensible of the loss sustained. As a religious body, we greatly feel our want of her company and counsel, and earnestly desire the God of all grace so to sanctify the bereavement to us who are left behind, as to enable us, more than ever, to realize how frail we are.

The Testimony of Creek Monthly Meeting, Dutchess County, New-York, held Fourth Month, 19th, 1839, concerning our beloved Friend SARAH M. UPTON, *deceased.*

SHE was the daughter of Obed and Lydia Mitchell, late of Nantucket, Massachusetts, and born the 15th of 10th Month, 1788.

Being from her infancy of a delicate constitution, she was frequently brought very low by severe attacks of illness. And it is believed, that these dispensations of Divine Providence were a blessed means in his Holy hand, in weaning her mind and affections from the perishing things of time, and through His love, inducing her to place them on "things that accompany salvation." The watchful care of religious parents over her early years, proved a blessing to her; and being of an amiable disposition, adorned with meekness and innocent cheerfulness, she was dutiful to her parents, affectionate to her brothers and sisters, and kind to all around her. Under the influence of Divine

love, she frequently sought opportunities for religious retirement, and for reading the Holy Scriptures, and was often tendered in the perusal of the sacred truths contained therein, so that those around her were edified by her example of early piety. Thus in very early life she manifested tokens of Divine visitation, and as she bowed in submission thereto, she was favored in a great degree to avoid the vanities and dangers incident to youth, and became a pattern of humility and self-denial to her young friends, while her stability and solid deportment endeared her to those farther advanced in life. As she progressed in the path of righteousness, many deep baptisms and conflicts of spirit attended her, which she endured with patience and resignation, until reduced to a submission to the Divine Will. Being thus instructed in the school of Christ, she was prepared for more conspicuous service in His Church, and about the twenty-fifth year of her age, she appeared in the ministry to the satisfaction of her friends.—Previously to this, she had entered into the married state with George M. Coffin ;—

which connexion was, in the ordering of a gracious Providence, of short duration. In less than three years her dear husband was removed by death. Under this close trial, she had recourse to the Fountain of all consolation for support, which was in mercy vouchsafed to her.

For several years subsequent to the death of her husband, her time and attention were assiduously devoted to her sick mother, who, after an illness of about four years, was released from the trials of time.

Being diligent in the attendance of religious meetings, and carefully regarding the unfoldings of the Holy Spirit, she experienced a growth in her gift, and her ministry was in due time acknowledged by the Society.

After continuing a widow about three years, she again entered into the marriage union with our esteemed friend, Smith Upton. In the spring of 1822, she removed with her husband from the place of her nativity to Dutchess County, and settled within the limits of this meeting. Here her exemplary deportment and love for the blessed cause

of Truth, soon gained her the notice and esteem of her Friends.

It being a time of great trial in the Society, she bore a christian testimony against the spirit of innovation and misrule, which, even then, began to be fearfully exhibited. During the desolating storm which soon after followed, her faith and confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour of men, remained firm and unshaken; and when Friends were assembled in their small meetings for solemn worship and discipline, she was frequently led to address them in the language of consolation, encouraging to a faithful maintenance of our christian discipline, and to cherish a disposition to be willing to suffer for the cause of our Holy Redeemer; not unfrequently quoting the language of Holy Writ, "I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord."

As she advanced in years, her love and devotion to the cause of Christ increased, and she was concerned to travel extensively in the service of the gospel; often leaving

home in great bodily weakness, but possessing a mind of uncommon firmness, and relying in faith and humility on the mercies of Him, who "putteth forth and goeth before" for support, she was enabled to accomplish the services required of her, to the peace of her own mind, and to the satisfaction and edification of her Friends.

During the last few years of her life, she was not much from home. At this period she passed through some close and proving seasons, wherein her spiritual conflicts were many and deep, until He, who saw the integrity of her heart, was pleased in unmerited mercy to say, "Peace, be still."

Her ministry was sound and weighty, fully evincing the fervency of her concern for the promotion of the cause of righteousness in the earth, and although she was firmly attached to the doctrines and precepts of the Gospel as embraced by our religious Society, yet her love and charity were extended to the different professors of the christian name.

For the youth, she manifested an affectionate solicitude; greatly desiring their

growth and establishment in the blessed truth; and as she had herself received much benefit and consolation from reading the Holy Scriptures, she felt it to be her duty to recommend to this interesting class of Society to pursue a like practice, as being eminently conducive to their greatest good.

She was a kind and affectionate wife, managing her domestic concerns with prudence and discretion; "Given to hospitality," entertaining her Friends with great good will; and a sincere lover of the servants of Christ. Visiting the sick and afflicted, and relieving the poor, were to her, interesting duties which she cheerfully performed.

She was taken ill in 4th Month, 1838, with a distressing disease, which ultimately put a period to her life; but during its progress, she was favored with occasional remissions wherein she could enjoy the company of her Friends, by whom a cheering hope was indulged that she might again be restored to her usual health and usefulness; but He, who "seeth not as man seeth," was pleased in his adorable wisdom and goodness, otherwise to order it. She was often tried with

much poverty of spirit, which led to "great searchings of heart,"—and she fervently desired that, through all her sufferings and privations she might be "preserved in patience and even from a murmuring thought." Gratitude for favors received, and a patient resignation to the Divine disposal, were conspicuously exhibited through her long and suffering illness.

She became more alarmingly ill the 6th of 2d Month last. And the two following days being the time of our Quarterly Meeting, many Friends calling in, she was glad to see them once more; and to several of these she was enabled to communicate her unabated concern for their preservation in the path of rectitude, and that they might experience a right qualification to "contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints" and added "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit saith the Lord of Hosts."

From this time her strength failed fast, but her mind remained clear and serene, and she uttered many comfortable expressions to her relatives and Friends. The day previous to her decease, being in excru-

ciating pain, she earnestly desired to be released from her sufferings, and added, "in the Lord's own time, which is the only right time."

About 8 o'clock the following morning, an evident change took place, of which she was sensible. The physician being in the room she took leave of him, returning her acknowledgements for his kind attention to her through her sickness, and with a countenance expressive of sweetness and serenity, she said with uplifted hands, "The prospect is all glorious! is all glorious!"

To her husband, brothers and sisters, she imparted suitable counsel and encouragement in relation to their future conduct in life, and bade them an affectionate and final farewell. Taking leave of an aged neighbor (who survived her but a short time,) she said, "Give my love to thy wife," and added, "I want you to be prepared for a time like *this*." Her sister-in-law who had been confined by sickness several months being brought to the house, and coming into the room, she took her by the hand and said, "The gate of the Kingdom is open to me."

The youth present were addressed by her in a very feeling manner, encouraging them to put their trust in "Him who is mightier than the noise of many waters, and who can say, 'Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed.'" Desiring them to make an early dedication of their time and talents to the precious cause of our Holy Redeemer, which she abundantly evinced, remained dear to her to the last moments of her life. Her peaceful close took place in the afternoon of the 19th of 2d Month, 1839.